

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 02153 220624Z

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ACTION SS-25

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P R 211525Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7647
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

S E C R E T AMMAN 2153

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, LE, XF
SUBJECT: SITUATION IN LEBANON -- TALK WITH KING

1. FOLLOWING SHORT MEETING TODAY (APRIL 21) ON ANOTHER SUBJECT
KING RAISED WITH ME SITUATION IN LEBANON.

2. HIS MAIN MESSAGE WAS THAT ASAD IS LOSING SUPPORT IN
LEBANON AND AT HOME AND MAY FEEL HE WILL HAVE TO MAKE
CRUCIAL TOUGH DECISION SOON.

3. KING AND I TALKED ABOUT CHAMOUN'S APPARENT WAIVERING.
KING RETAINS HIS CLOSE CONTACTS WITH CHAMOUN AND CAN
BE HELPFUL. KING SAID THAT ASAD IN RECENT TELEPHONE
CALL HAD ASSURED HUSSEIN THAT SYRIA WOULD STICK WITH
THE ARRANGEMENTS PREVIOUSLY WORKED OUT IN JANUARY ON
A SETTLEMENT. I ASKED KING IF THIS WAS THE
"17 POINTS. KING SAID HE WAS NOT SURE, BUT ASSUMED
SO.

4. KING WENT ON TO SAY THAT ASAD STILL RETAINS HIS
SUSPICIONS OF U.S. AND OUR MOTIVES. I TOLD KING THAT
IT WAS CLEAR SUSPICIONS WOULD NOT DIE EASILY ON EITHER
SIDE, BUT THAT RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT
AND SECRETARY SHOULD HELP TO REASSURE ASAD.

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PAGE 02 AMMAN 02153 220624Z

5. KING SAID HE HAD SEEN RUSSIAN TRAVELERS WHO WERE

RECENTLY IN LEBANON (PRIVAKOV AND BELAYEV ?) JUST
AFTER TALKING WITH SENATOR MATHIAS HERE TWO DAYS AGO.
THEY HAD SEEN JUMBLATT AND REPORTED HIM AS ADAMANT
ABOUT NOT TAKING SYRIAN DIRECTION AND INTENT ON GETTING EVERY
SYRIAN OUT OF LEBANON. RUSSIANS ALSO TOLD
KING THAT ARAFAT HAD TOLD THEM, AS HE HAD SENATOR
MATHIAS, THAT LEBANON CRISIS WAS AN AMERICAN-SYRIAN PLOT
TO GET THE SYRIANS INTO LEBANON.

6. KING REPORTS, PROBABLY AS A RESULT OF CALL
TO ASAD NOTED ABOVE, THAT ASAD STILL HOPES TO GO TO
FRANCE SOON. RATHER THAN GOING TO SYRIA HIMSELF
AS EARLIER PLANNED, KING IS SENDING RIFAI TO TALK TO
ASAD IN NEXT FEW DAYS.

7. IF KING WERE GOING HIMSELF, I WOULD ASK FOR A
MESSAGE, PRESUMING WE HAD SOME WORDS WE WOULD LIKE
TO HAVE HIM CONVEY TO ASAD. RIFAI WILL PASS ON WHAT-
EVER WE HAVE TO SAY I AM SURE, BUT I LEAVE IT TO YOU
TO DECIDE WHETHER YOU WANT TO COMMISSION HIM TO
DO SO.
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

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